

SEP 23 1999

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Department Of
Environmental Management
601 Texas Street
Fairfield, CA • 94533

Planning Division
(707) 421-6765

September 21, 1999

Rick Breitenbach
CalFed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Breitenbach:

On September 14, 1999, the Solano County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution (attached) which we would like to be included as comments to the CalFed Revised Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR. These comments focus on the following issues:

- A guarantee that there will be adequate freshwater flows into the Bay.
- Water conservation by all users.
- A fair share of funding for Bay Area environmental restoration efforts.
- Protection of agricultural lands and operations.

Please free to call me at (707) 421-6765 if you have any questions. We look forward to reviewing your response to our comments in the Final Draft document.

Sincerely,

Birgitta Corsello
Director of Environmental Management

Attachment

Cc: Supervisor Steve Kinsey
Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

• Association of Bay Area Governments
P.O. Box 2050
Oakland, CA 94604-2050

Bay Conservation and Development Commission
30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 2011
San Francisco, CA 94102

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF SOLANO COUNTY
TO CALFED URGING INCREASED PROTECTION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY-
DELTA ESTUARY AND AGRICULTURAL LANDS WITHIN SOLANO COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary and the diverse ecosystems it supports are fundamental to the environmental well being of the entire Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, much of the Bay Area's economic vitality is supported by the Bay-Delta estuary, including industries such as agriculture, tourism, recreational and commercial fishing; and

WHEREAS, the Bay-Delta estuary's health is in rapid decline, manifested by various indicators including dramatic reductions in fish populations, and due to a variety of devastating impacts, including the diversion of over 50 percent of its flows from the watershed's rivers, the loss of over 85 percent of historic wetlands, and the discharge of 40,000 tons of pollutants into the Bay; and

WHEREAS, since 1994 the Federal Government and the State of California, in conjunction with agricultural, urban and environmental stakeholders, have undertaken an effort to address the remarkably complex water resource issues of the Bay-Delta ecosystem through a process known as CALFED; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is a major industry in Solano County and is directly dependant upon the land which is available for production; and

WHEREAS, the CALFED project will have direct impacts on agriculture within Solano County in terms of both water distribution for agricultural use, and the removal from production of prime agricultural lands for purposes such as ecosystem restoration, levee system improvements, and water storage and conveyance; and

WHEREAS, in the CALFED process the current public comment period for the Draft Programmatic EIR/EIS provides a critical opportunity for input on the issues affecting the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary and productive agricultural lands within Solano County.

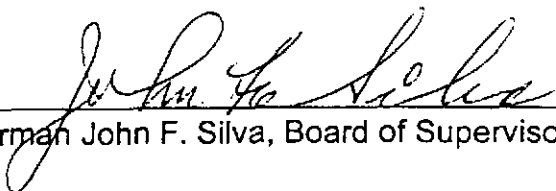
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, that the Solano County Board of Supervisors does hereby identify that the following essential elements must be incorporated into future policies and programs undertaken by the CALFED process:

- A guarantee that there will be adequate freshwater flows into the Bay – The San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary's historic freshwater flows have been reduced by half. Currently there exists a need for science-based standards that establish minimum flows of freshwater into the Bay. Adequate flows will benefit the entire estuary in diverse ways, including improving water quality, supporting biological diversity, and the health of all of the Bay-Delta estuary's ecosystems.

- Water conservation by all users – Equitable water conservation practices must be required and enforced for all users throughout California. Managing demand through conservation practices and greater water use efficiency can eliminate or substantially reduce the need to construct new storage facilities. Until conservation practices and demand management have been implemented and monitored, the construction of new storage facilities should not be initiated.
- A fair share of funding for Bay Area environmental restoration efforts – The EPA's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), BCDC's San Francisco Bay Plan, and the RWQCB's Bay Basin Plan all establish numerous beneficial measures that must be taken to protect and restore habitat and improve fish and wildlife in the Bay-Delta estuary. Of the most recent funding package only 5% came to projects in the region. Funding to implement these recommended programs must be brought up to levels that are appropriately proportional to budgets for environmental restoration in other parts of the State.
- Protection of agricultural lands and operations – Adequate mitigation must be provided to address the impacts resulting from the conversion of productive farmland to non-agricultural uses. An equitable amount of water resources must remain available for agricultural users in the Bay-Delta region.

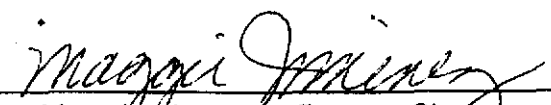
Passed and adopted by the Solano County Board of Supervisors at its regular meeting on
September 14, 1999, by the following vote:

AYES:	Supervisors	<u>Carroll, Kondylis, Kromm, Thomson, and Chairman Silva</u>
NOES:	Supervisors	<u>None</u>
ABSTAIN:	Supervisors	<u>None</u>
ABSENT:	Supervisors	<u>None</u>


 Chairman John F. Silva, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Michael D. Johnson, Clerk
 of the Board of Supervisors

By: 
 Maggie Jimenez, Deputy Clerk
 Reggi Blancett, Deputy Clerk

This instrument is a
 correct copy of the original
 on file in this office.

ATTEST:

Michael D. Johnson, Clerk of
 the Board of Supervisors of
 the County of Solano, State
 of California

By: 